



Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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ALBANY, NY – Richard S. Hartunian, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Patrick Coultry, Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security Investigations (ICE), announced today that **JASON MCLAUGHLIN**, age 31, of Latham, New York, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary L. Sharpe in Federal Court in Albany on his guilty pleas to two counts of an Indictment charging him with the production of child pornography. **MCLAUGHLIN** was sentenced to 262 months on each count to run concurrent to each other and ordered to serve a lifetime term of supervised release. He also was ordered to (1) have no unsupervised contact with minors; (2) participate in a sex offender program; and (3) register with the New York State Sex Offender Registry Program.

MCLAUGHLIN pled guilty on February 24, 2009. In connection with his plea, he admitted the following in a written plea agreement and during his plea proceeding:

Sometime between January of 2006, and May 17, 2008, McLaughlin used a camera to produce sexually explicit image of two known minor victims, Jane Doe # 1 and Jane

Doe # 2.¹ At the time, McLaughlin knew the ages of these minors. Jane Doe # 1 was born in 1994. Jane Doe # 2 was born in 1993 . More specifically, during this time period and on at least two separate occasions, he drugged these two minors with Ambien, a sleeping medication, undressed or partially undressed them, and then filmed them in sexually explicit poses. For instance, McLaughlin used a camera to film “close up” images of Jane Doe #1's naked genital area. He also pulled her underwear to the side and filmed portions of her naked genital area while her legs were spread apart. In addition, McLaughlin used a camera to film “close up” images of Jane Doe #2's naked genital area. He also pulled her underwear to the side and filmed portions of her naked genital area while her legs were spread apart. McLaughlin also filmed himself spreading apart the labia of these minors. Additionally, as to at least one of these minors, he filmed himself inserting his finger into said minor's vaginal area while she was naked and asleep. McLaughlin later transferred these images to a computer. At the time of said offenses, these minors were under McLaughlin's care and supervisory control. The defendant filmed these minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct at a residence in Latham, New York. ...Further, McLaughlin actually transported a number of the sexually explicit images of these minors in interstate and foreign commerce, via the Internet. For instance, he sent a number of said images to an individual in Kentucky. Further, McLaughlin...created them, in part, to trade with others and actually transported them to other individuals who lived in other states and countries and who were sending him similar images.

From May 30, 2006, through September 21, 2006, MCLAUGHLIN, used “Google Hello” (hereinafter “Hello”) to communicate with other individuals on the Internet. Generally, “Hello” was an Internet peer to peer instant messaging program that allowed online users to connect directly with other individuals who were also using this program. The program allowed users to share digital images along with their instant messages. It was designed to let individuals send high-quality images instantly and securely over the internet. This program also automatically encrypted all images and online chat.

¹ The actual names of Jane Does # 1 & 2 are not included in order to protect the identity of these minors. See 18 U.S.C. § 3509(d).

Sometime on or about November 16, 2006, an individual from Kentucky informed law enforcement officials that he had been trading child pornography with an individual later identified as McLaughlin using "Hello". He also identified McLaughlin as a person who claimed to be producing child pornography. This individual's computer was forensically analyzed and communications between this individual and McLaughlin were recovered. These communications revealed that this individual was in fact trading child pornography with McLaughlin. During their communications, McLaughlin, from his residence in the Northern District of New York, distributed child pornography to this individual and also received child pornography from this individual. More specifically, the following "Hello" exchanges occurred between McLaughlin and this individual:

1. On May 30, 2006, McLaughlin sent this individual four computer images, via "Hello", which depict minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. These images depict girls, between the ages of 9 and 14, nude or partially dressed and engaged in sexual acts or displaying their naked genital areas. One of these images depicts a naked minor female and an adult male on a bed who appear to be about to engage in sexual intercourse;
2. On August 29, 2006, McLaughlin sent this individual approximately 20 images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. These images depict minors, between the ages of 1 or 2 and 8, nude or partially dressed spreading their legs and exposing their naked genital areas or performing sexual acts;
3. On September 2, 2006, McLaughlin and this individual discussed trading child pornography and, did in fact, traded child pornography. McLaughlin sent this individual approximately 14 images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. These images depict minors, between the ages of 3 and 14, nude or partially dressed spreading their legs and exposing their naked genital areas or performing sexual acts. One of these images depicts a minor female engaging in sexual intercourse with a male. Another depicts a minor female performing oral sex on an adult male. During this conversation, McLaughlin also discussed producing his own child pornography by using the sleeping medication

“Ambien” to drug, and then film, two known minor victims which he stated were 11 and 12 years of age. He noted that this drug is effective since it erases a victim’s memory of the event. He also sent the individual a sexually explicit image of one of the girls he had allegedly drugged;

4. On September 12, 2006, McLaughlin sent this individual approximately 10 images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. These images depict minors, between the ages of 3 and 14, nude or partially dressed spreading their legs and exposing their naked genital areas;
5. On September 21, 2006, McLaughlin received approximately 5 images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct from this individual. One of these images depicts a female minor, approximately 5 years of age, performing oral sex on a male. The other three images depict nude minor females engaging in sexual intercourse with men; and
6. On November 9, 2006, McLaughlin sent this individual approximately 32 images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. One of these images depicts an adult male about to engage in sexual intercourse with a naked prepubescent female.

On May 17, 2008, a federal search warrant was executed at McLaughlin’s residence in the Northern District of New York. Among the items seized from his bedroom were a HP Desktop computer... and a Maxtur external hard drive...Ambien sleeping pills were also recovered from his bedroom. In addition, a HP Photosmart M437 camera was recovered from McLaughlin’s bedroom. Also recovered during the investigation was a Sony Cybershot camera...

Forensic examinations of this computer and said external hard drive were subsequently conducted. Sexually explicit images of Jane Does # 1 and 2 were recovered from these items. A number of said images of Jane Doe # 1 bear the date of August 9, 2007, embedded in the images themselves. Said images of Jane Doe #1 depict her partially clothed or nude with a shirt over her head or depict just her torso exposing her naked breasts or genital area. She appears to be asleep. A number of the images depict close up shots of her naked genital area. In a number of the images, there are signs on her body that state “for my friend” with a person’s first name. In one of the images,

McLaughlin is pulling Jane Doe # 1's panties to the side, exposing her naked genital area. A number of said images of Jane Doe # 2, also bear the date of August 9, 2007, embedded in the images themselves. Said images of Jane Doe #2 depict her partially dressed and exposing her naked breasts or genital area. A number of the images depict close up shots of her naked genital or pubic area. Some of these images depict McLaughlin pulling Jane Doe #2's panties to the side exposing her naked genital area. A number of said images depict him spreading apart the naked labia of one of these minors. One image depicts McLaughlin inserting his finger into said minor's vagina....McLaughlin produced said images on at least two separate dates.

Furthermore, thousands of images of other minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct...were recovered from said computer and external hard drive. These images depict, among other things, naked minor females, between the ages of 1 and 14, engaged in vaginal sex, oral sex, anal sex, masturbation, and the lascivious exhibition of the genital area of these minors. Images depicting objects being inserted into the vaginal area of naked minors and naked minors bound or tied were also recovered from said computer and external hard drive. All of these images depict actual, as opposed to computer generated, images of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Many of these images depict prepubescent minors, including toddlers, engaged in such conduct.

MCLAUGHLIN was arrested on Saturday, May 17, 2008, by the Department of Homeland Security Investigations, New York State Police and Colonie Police Department. He is facing related felony charges in Albany County.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security Investigations, the New York State Police, and the Colonie Police Department.

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